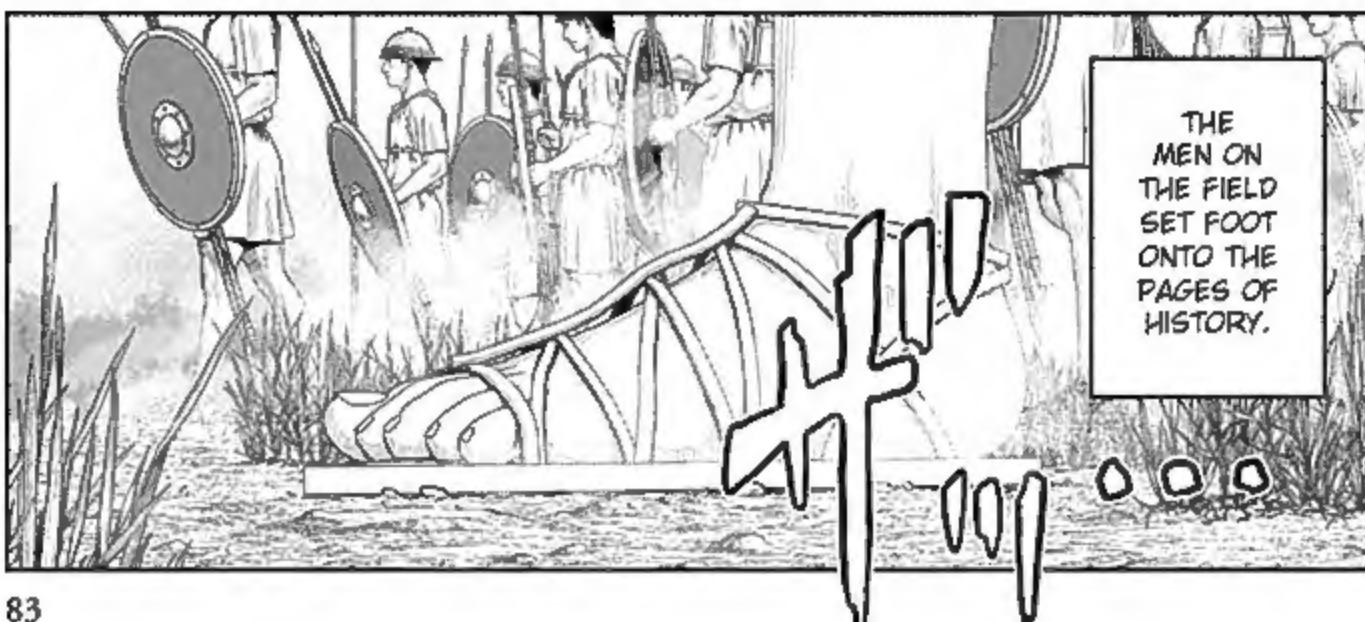


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Publius Cornelius Scipio Africanus Major & Hannibal Barca

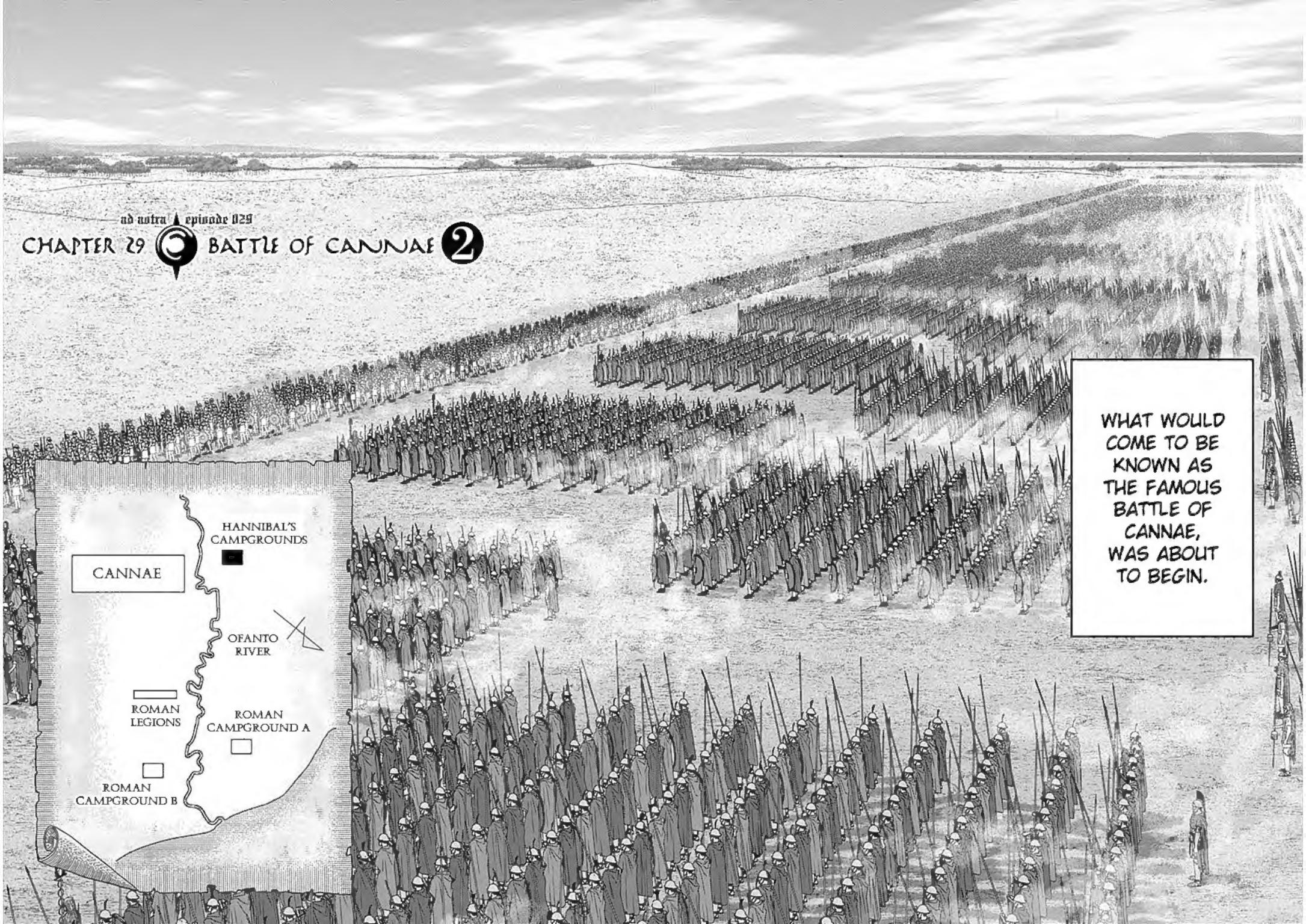


BATTLE-OF-CANNAE 2



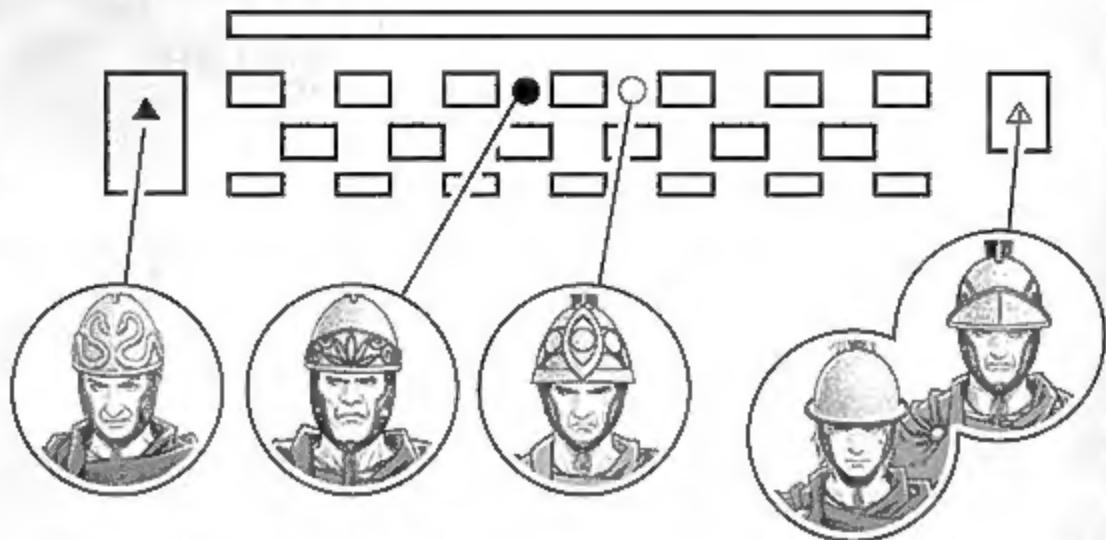
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CHAPTER 29 C BATTLE OF CANNAE 2



WHAT WOULD
COME TO BE
KNOWN AS
THE FAMOUS
BATTLE OF
CANNAE,
WAS ABOUT
TO BEGIN.

ROMAN FORCE COMPOSITION

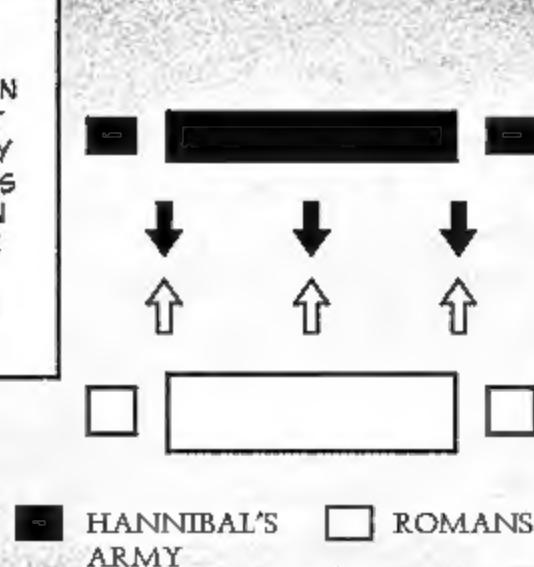


- 0 JAVELIN SKIRMISHERS VELITES
- 1 FIRST BATTLE LINE HASTATI (GAIUS)
- 2 SECOND BATTLE LINE PRINCIPES
- 3 THIRD BATTLE LINE TRIARII
- ▲ COMMANDER OF THE LEFT WING
ALLIED CAVALRY, VARRO
- INFANTRY COMMANDER SERVILIUS
- INFANTRY COMMANDER MINUCIUS
- △ COMMANDER OF THE RIGHT WING
ROMAN CAVALRY, AEMILIUS (SCIPIO)

ROMAN INFANTRY	35 000
ALLIED INFANTRY	35 000
ROMAN CAVALRY	2 400
ALLIED CAVALRY	4 000
CAMP GARRISON	10 000
TOTAL	86 400

IT ALLOWED THEM TO UTILISE THEIR FULL ADVANTAGE WHILE ALSO FOILING THE ENEMY'S PLAN.

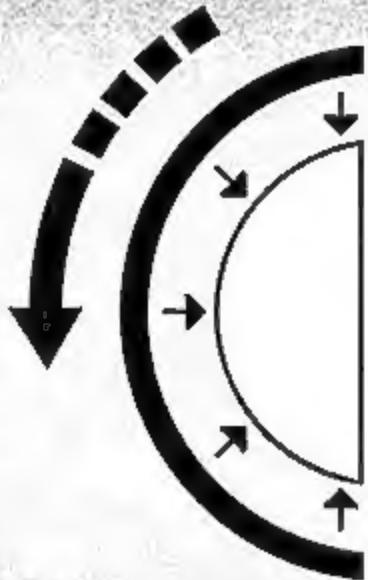
BUT THE TRUTH IS, THIS WAS AN EXCELLENT DECISION BY THE ROMANS IN BOTH AN OFFENSIVE AND DEFENSIVE SENSE.



SOME MAY WONDER WHY THE ROMANS CHOSE TO ADOPT SUCH A PLAN, SURELY SUCH A SIMPLE AND ORTHODOX APPROACH WOULD BE LITTERLY FOOLISH CONSIDERING THEY WERE UP AGAINST HANNIBAL.

THIS, TOGETHER WITH THE RIVER THAT WAS BEHIND THE ROMANS, WOULD HAVE ALLOWED HANNIBAL TO SUCCESSFULLY SURROUND THE ROMANS...

...THUS ELEGANTLY NEGATING THE ROMAN'S NUMERICAL ADVANTAGE.



A COMMON MOTIF OF HANNIBAL'S MODUS OPERANDI WAS THE EXPLOITATION OF THE TERRAIN.

THE ROMANS EXPECTED HANNIBAL TO CONCENTRATE HIS FORCES ON THE LEFT WING, THEN ROTATE AROUND TO SURROUND THE MUCH LARGER ROMAN FORCE.

IF THEY WERE ABLE TO BREAK THROUGH HANNIBAL'S CENTRE, THEN YES, THEY WOULD BE PINCERED ON BOTH SIDES,

BUT AS THEY OUTNUMBERED HANNIBAL'S MEN NEARLY TWO TO ONE, THIS DID NOT POSE TOO GREAT A DANGER.

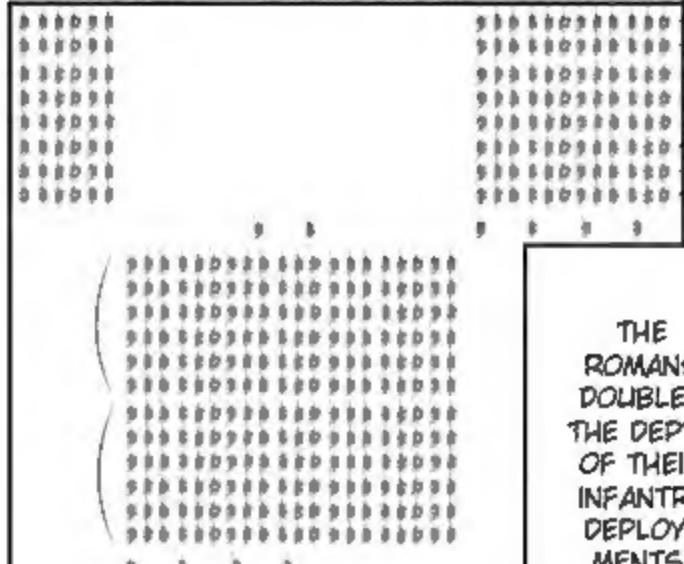


IN WHICH CASE, IT WAS THE ROMAN'S GOAL TO DENY HANNIBAL THIS USE OF THE RIVER THAT LAY BEHIND THEM.

IN A MASTERFUL REVERSAL, IT WOULD THEN BE THE ROMANS THAT WOULD ENJOY ALL THE ADVANTAGES OF THE RIVER WHILE CRUSHING HANNIBAL'S LEFT WING.

THE SEPARATED LEFT WING OF HANNIBAL'S MEN WOULD THEN FIND THEMSELVES TO BE THE ONES FIGHTING WITH THEIR BACKS TO THE RIVER.





THE ROMANS DOUBLED THE DEPTH OF THEIR INFANTRY DEPLOYMENTS.

WHICH IS WHY, TO FURTHER ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF PUNCHED THROUGH HANNIBAL'S RANKS,



THE PROBLEM WITH THIS PLAN WAS HOW LONG THE ROMANS WOULD TAKE TO BREAK THROUGH THE ENEMY CENTRE.

NUMIDIAN CAVALRY

GAULISH CAVALRY

AS FOR THE CAVALRY, IT WAS CONCLUDED THAT THEY WERE NO MATCH FOR HANNIBAL'S IN EITHER QUANTITY OR QUALITY.

IBERIAN CAVALRY

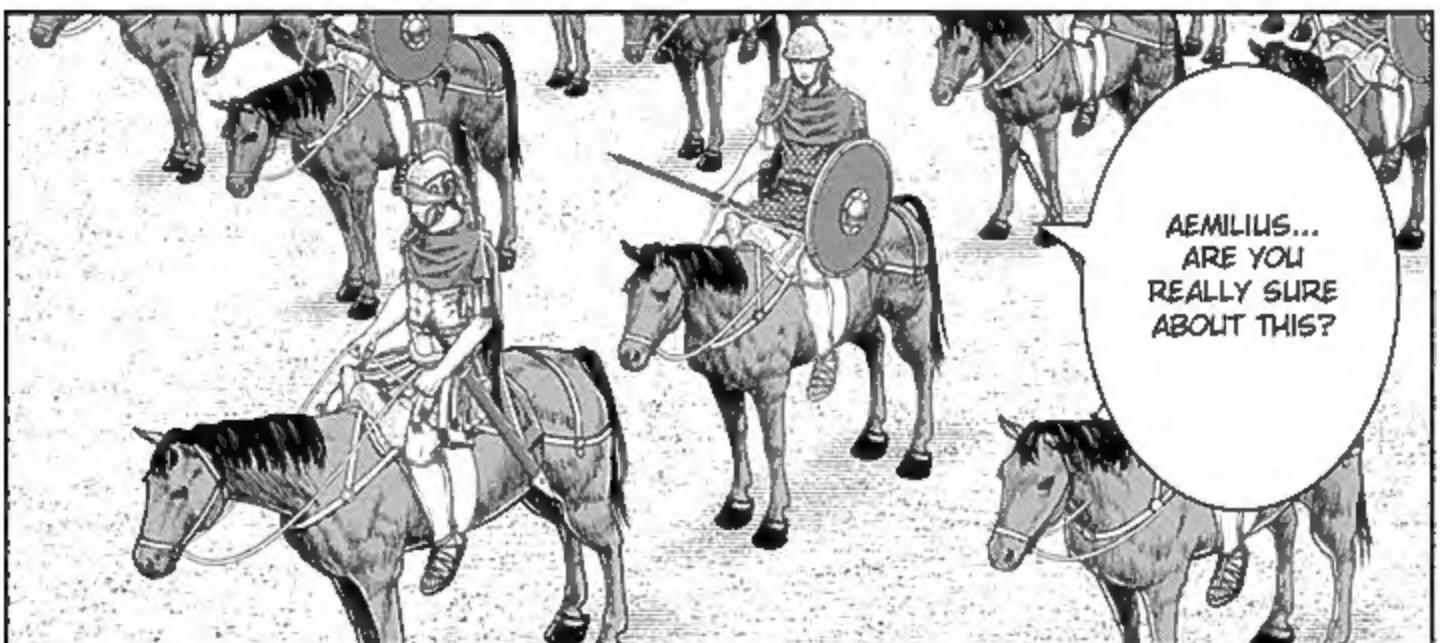
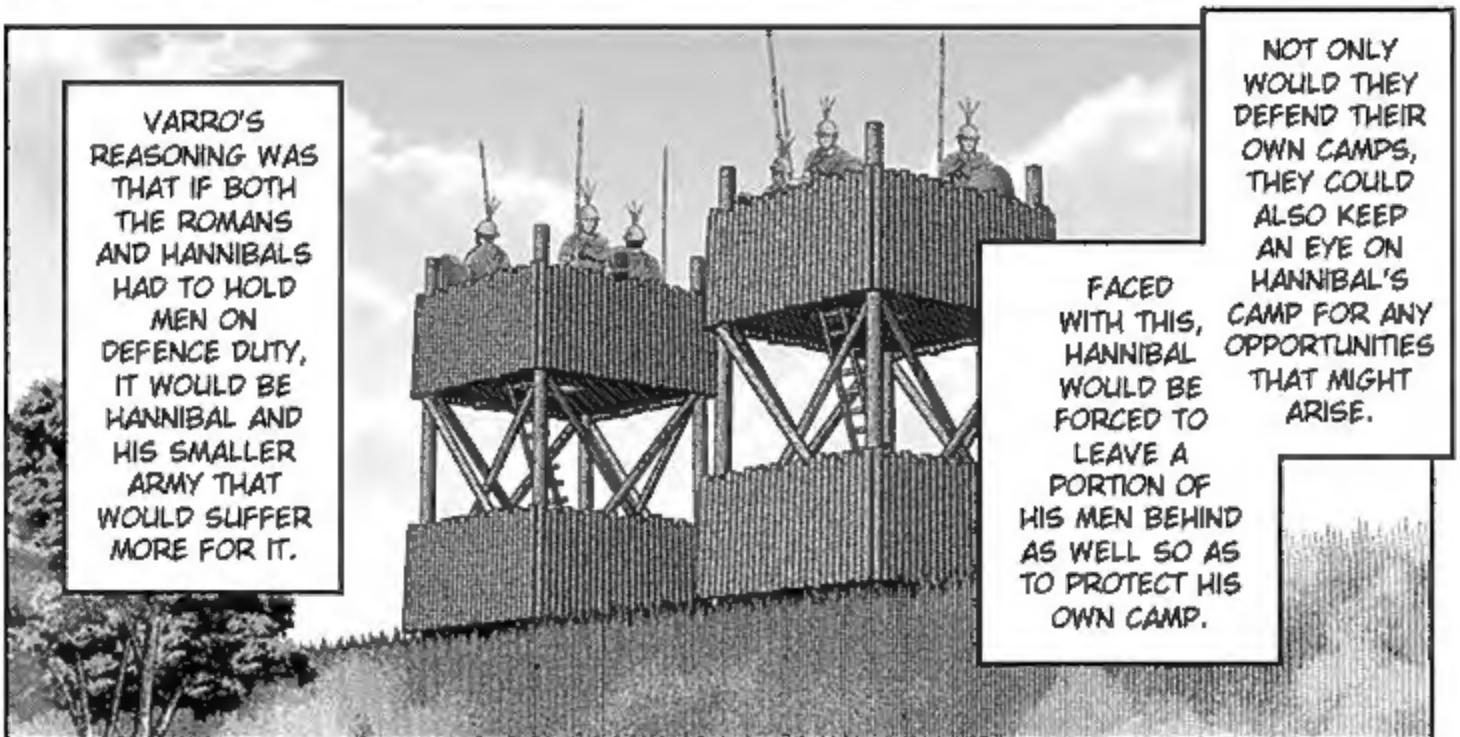
THUS THEIR ONLY OBJECTIVE WAS TO BUY ENOUGH TIME FOR THE INFANTRY TO BREAK THROUGH HANNIBAL'S CENTRE.

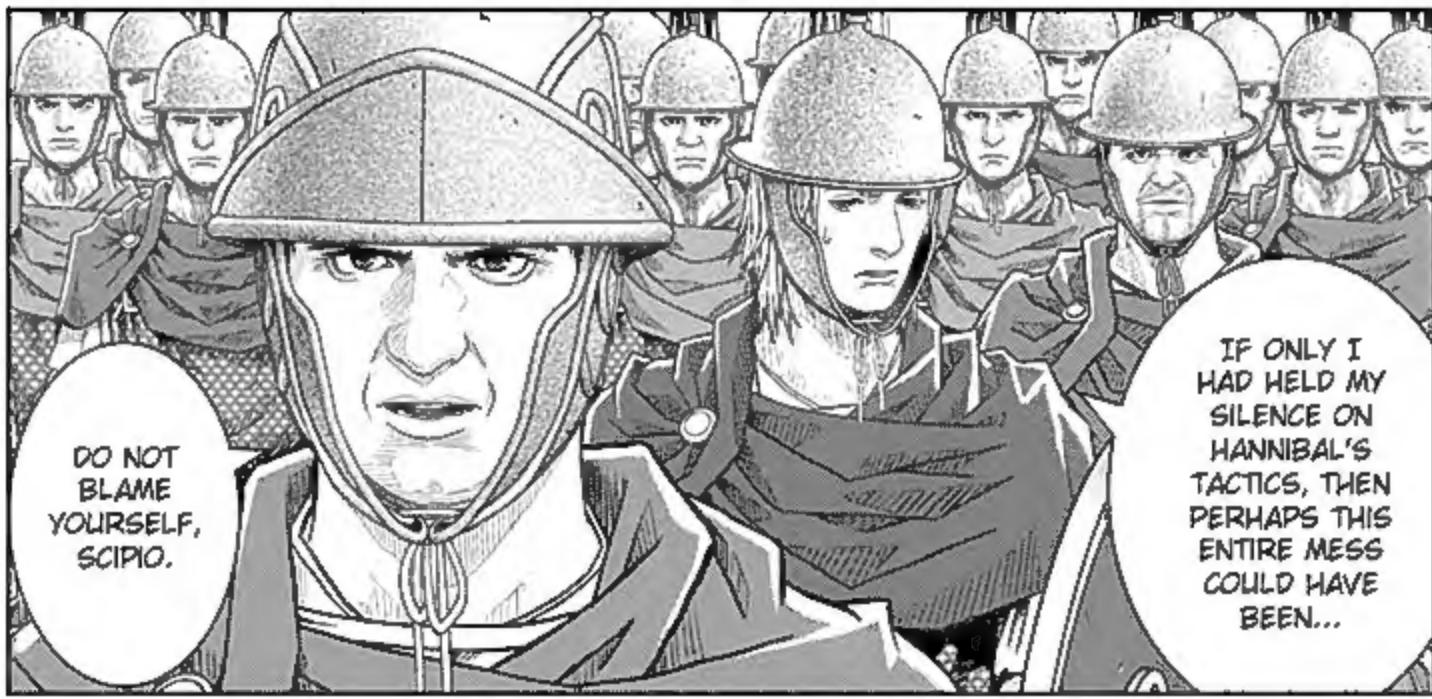


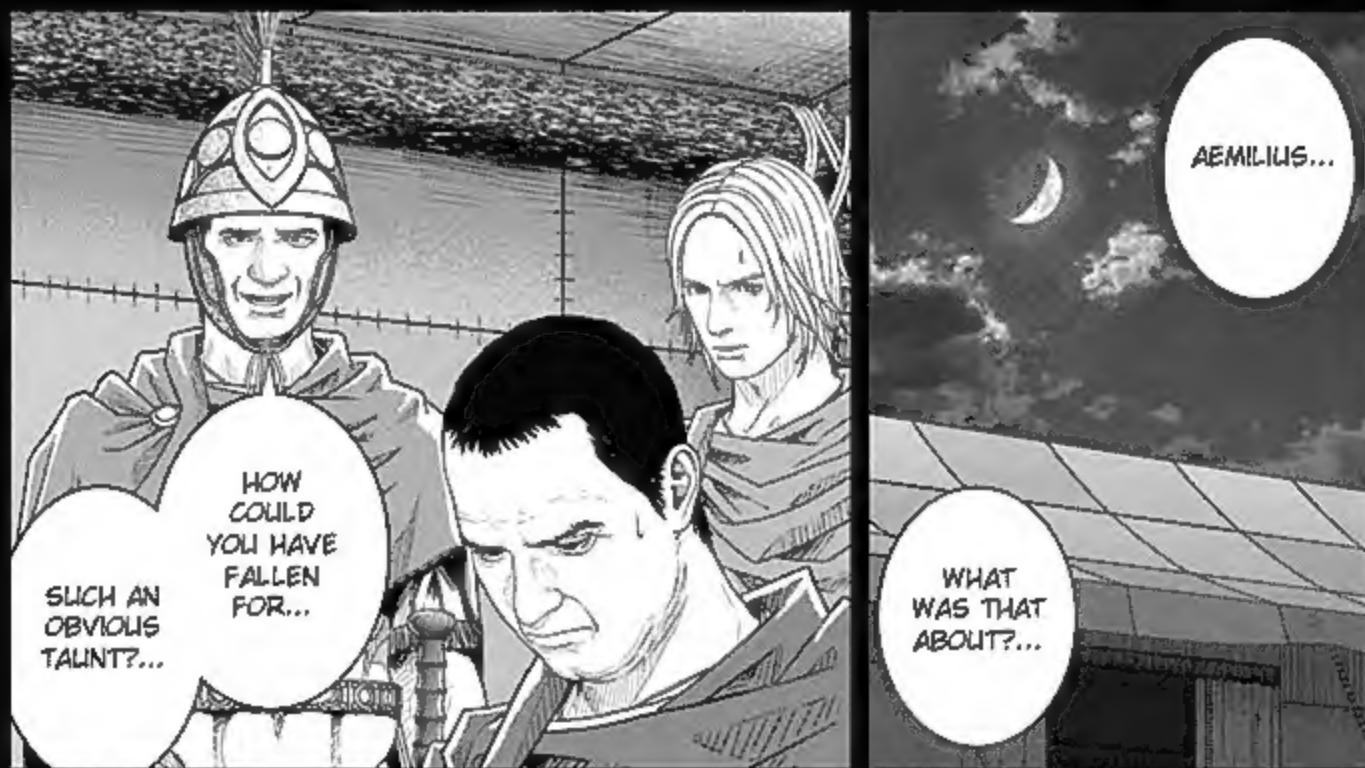
DUE TO THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS TASK, WITH IT BEING THE ONE THING THAT WOULD DECIDE THE ENTIRE BATTLE,

COMMAND OF THE RIGHT WING ROMAN CAVALRY WENT TO AEMILIUS, WHILST VARRO WAS TO LEAD THE LEFT WING ALLIED CAVALRY.

DAILY TOO LONG AND THEIR REAR WOULD BE ATTACKED BY THE ENEMY CAVALRY, RESULTING IN THEIR PLAN GOING UP IN SMOKE.







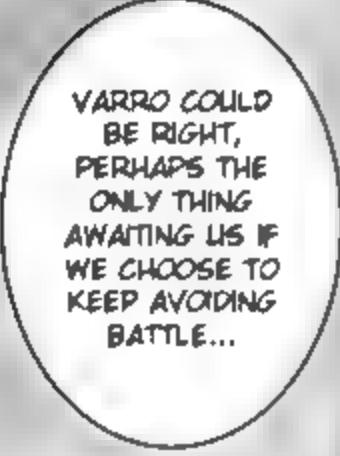








IS RUIN...



VARRO COULD
BE RIGHT,
PERHAPS THE
ONLY THING
AWAITING US IF
WE CHOOSE TO
KEEP AVOIDING
BATTLE...



WHO CAN
BLAME THEM
IF THEY
INSULT ME
AND SAY
THAT I AM
NO WARRIOR
OF ROME?



...I AM A
COWARD WHO
CANNOT EVEN
FIND THE
COURAGE TO
RUN AWAY
FROM THIS
ENEMY.



HOW COULD
A SMALL MAN
LIKE MYSELF
EVER HOPE
TO BEAR A
RESPONSIBILITY
THAT
LARGE?



A MISERABLE
EXCUSE OF A
WARRIOR.

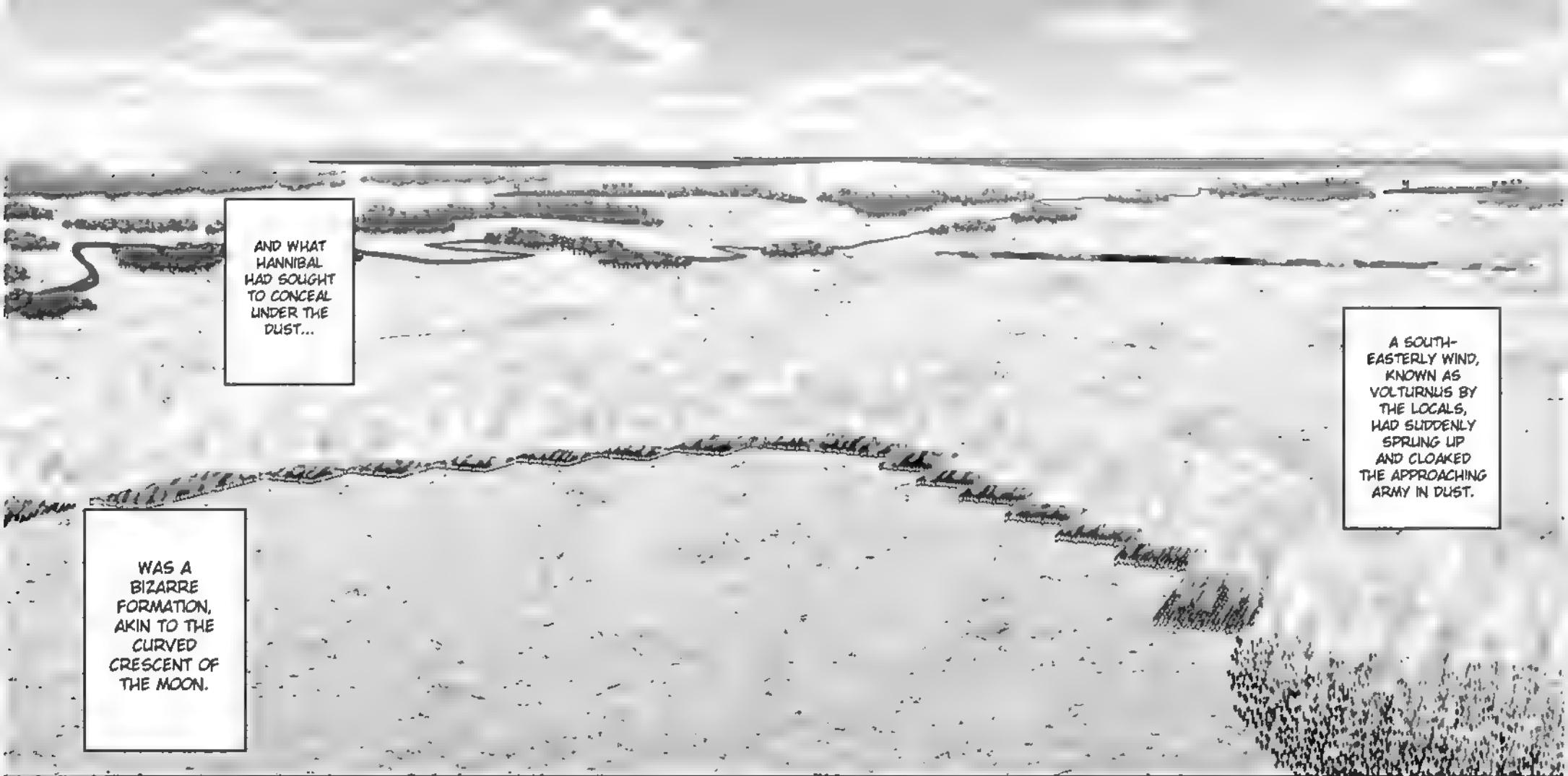
...I CHOOSE
TO FIGHT
BECAUSE
I AM A
COWARD.











AND WHAT HANNIBAL HAD SOUGHT TO CONCEAL UNDER THE DUST...

WAS A BIZARRE FORMATION, AKN TO THE CURVED CRESCENT OF THE MOON.

A SOUTH-EASTERLY WIND, KNOWN AS VOLTURNUS BY THE LOCALS, HAD SUDDENLY SPRUNG UP AND CLOAKED THE APPROACHING ARMY IN DUST.



ALL TROOPS, HALT!

ALL TROOPS, HALT.



WITH THEIR VISION LIMITED BY THE DUST, THE ROMANS FOUND THEMSELVES BAFFLED.



WHAT WAS THE MEANING BEHIND SUCH A STRANGE FORMATION?



LET THE
BATTLE
BEGIN.









**FOR-
WARD!**